

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## Message from the Mayor President Bush and Homeland Security

Just last week, I had the honor of giving President George W. Bush—our neighbor at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue—a tour of the Synchronized Operations Command Complex (SOCC) at Metropolitan Police Department headquarters on Indiana Avenue. This high-tech command center serves as the heart of our region's communications, from transportation to law enforcement.

Following the tour, President Bush and I, along with Homeland Security Advisor Tom Ridge, went across the street to the old DC Council chambers at 441 Fourth Street, NW, where President Bush delivered a policy speech on the need for a Department of Homeland Security. It was no accident that we discussed the issue of homeland security as it is here, in our Nation's Capital, that critical decisions will be made to protect our citizens as we prepare to meet the challenges of a new century.

After September 11, we learned that it takes more than police, firefighters, and traditional first responders to respond to emergencies. It takes health care professionals, transportation experts, technology workers. It takes experts in communications and food distribution. Governor Ridge and the Bush administration know it is essential to work with these officials at the state and local level to ensure that our nation is prepared to respond to future incidents.

In the District of Columbia, our new emergency preparedness plan reflects a broadened pool of emergency professionals. Now, our responses will be coordinated, diverse, and effective to serve our citizens.

I am honored that President Bush appointed me to co-chair—with Governor Leavitt of Utah—the State and Local Senior Advisory Committee of the Homeland Security Advisory Council. It is an ongoing reflection of the importance of federal and local partnership in the field of homeland security.

This partnership has enabled us to build a new emergency operations center, revise our emergency preparedness plan, and very soon, begin construction of our Unified Communications Center (UCC). The center will be responsible for Homeland Security Response for the District and 16 contiguous jurisdictions making up the Council of Governments (COG) emergency response operations. Federal funding will help us build the UCC.

The UCC will also house the District's Emergency Management Agency (EMA), which is responsible for coordinating all emergency activities at the local government level (the District, Maryland, and Virginia), as well as at the federal level (Federal Emergency Management Agency, FBI, Secret Service, Capitol Police, and Park Police).

Additionally, the UCC will house the Mayor's Emergency Command Center, which will be a national focal point of federal, regional, and local communications and coordination in the event of major emergencies. All District 911 (public safety emergency) and 311 (public safety non-emergency) call-taking and dispatch operations will also be located at the UCC.

We expect to break ground in mid-December for the 140,000-square-foot UCC facility on 11 acres located on St. Elizabeths Hospital east campus grounds in Ward 8. The state-of-the art Unified Communications Center is essential to the enhancement and expansion of our emergency operations as we work to continue to protect the Nation's Capital.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

# Police Officers and Civilians Recognized for Bravery, Heroism, and Excellence

Last week, for the third time in three years, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) held an annual awards ceremony. At the ceremony, a variety of awards were presented to police officers, civilian employees, and community members who have demonstrated bravery, heroism, or excellence.

The awards include the Medal of Honor, Medal of Valor, Blue Badge/Shield (similar to a Purple Heart), Lifesaving Medal, Meritorious Service, Achievement, and Officer/Employee of the Year. A few hundred awardees were recognized during the course of the evening.

Attending the important ceremony were MPD employees, family members, community members active in community policing, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, and business and community leaders.

September 11 created a new appreciation for the role of “first responders,” but our police officers have known about being “first responders” for some time. They respond—day in and day out—in very dangerous and difficult circumstances.

Our police officers do their jobs well. Overall, crime in our city is down about 3 percent so far this year, despite a recent rash of homicides that follows an unfortunate national trend. Our police officers do their jobs without much attention, but they come to work every day with an attitude that helps keep our city safe.

The awards ceremony was an opportunity for the District to give police officers the attention and accolades they deserve. To be good first responders, police need the active support of the community. The District is blessed with very active citizen patrol groups, Patrol Service Area (PSA) teams, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs), and others. At the ceremony, we honored their hard work and sacrifice as well.

The role of first responders has never been more critical and more complex than it is today—right here in our Nation’s Capital. As we hear about the hard work, bravery, sacrifice, and overall excellence of the award winners, our citizens can feel confident and secure that their safety is in good hands.

## Employee Profile Kevin Bryant

Ever wonder who makes sure that the streets are cleaned up after Adams Morgan Day or after the Fourth of July festivities? Who schedules the weekend trash pick-up after a neighborhood clean up? Who organizes the street clearing efforts before major events, such as the IMF meetings or the Inaugural Parade?

Meet Kevin Bryant, 46, the Department of Public Works (DPW) General Foreman, Special Operations and Special Events Coordinator. Kevin’s job throughout the year is to make sure that the District has technicians, drivers, and equipment at the ready to support numerous community events by keeping streets and other public areas clean, emptying litter cans, and even moving a few Party Animals. Kevin has also spearheaded the District’s litter can expansion effort.



Kevin Bryant

A third-generation Washingtonian, Kevin grew up in Northeast and now lives in Shaw. An avid historian, he is president of the Tenants Association of the historic Whitelaw Hotel. He even had a featured role in the PBS special, *Duke Ellington’s Washington*, featuring the Shaw neighborhood.

Kevin joined DPW 15 years ago as a seasonal employee during leaf season. He is now foreman of that annual operation. He has gained a reputation for quality work, excellent organization, and strong leadership.

In the summer of '95, just a few months after returning to work from open-heart surgery, Kevin organized DPW’s Summer Youth Program. His aim was to give young people, aged 14-21, more than a summer job. He wanted to establish a mentoring program to teach them the basics of work etiquette and responsibility, such as punctuality, decision-making, and respect for others.

His strategy must have worked. “Many of the kids that I had in the Summer Youth Program later signed on for seasonal work during leaf season and eventually became full-time employees,” he said. In fact, that’s how Kevin Bryant, Jr. came to work for DPW three years ago.

Kevin Bryant puts the “works” into Public Works. Thanks, Kevin, for doing a great job!



## Georgia Avenue Welcomes Starbucks

On November 8, I had the pleasure of joining business executives and citizens to open an important new Starbucks coffee store at 2225 Georgia Avenue, NW, at Howard University. This represents an important piece of economic development in an area that has been craving stores such as Starbucks for a long time.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson—former Los Angeles Lakers star and chairman and CEO of Johnson Development Corporation—teamed up with Howard Schultz, chairman of Starbucks Coffee Company, to celebrate the store's opening. The store opened on October 15, 2002, and it was an exciting day for our city. This Starbucks is the first Starbucks/Johnson Development Corporation joint venture in the District.



Mayor Williams, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Kenneth Lombard, and Howard Schultz at grand opening.

A few years ago, I made a commitment to bring businesses to our neighborhoods that would provide good services and jobs. I know that Starbucks is a tremendous asset to our city and to the hard working students at Howard University who could use a little coffee to get through those late night study sessions. Like those students, I love coffee, and just about every day, I stroll across Freedom Plaza to grab a cup at Starbucks.

It's great to see Magic Johnson's vision of bringing quality products to ethnically diverse communities. It ties into my vision to turn neighborhoods into thriving places with jobs, restaurants, coffee houses, shopping, and access to transportation.

I encourage small, local, and disadvantaged business owners or those with business ideas to share in the economic opportunity offered by our city government. Partnerships are crucial to developing our city, and this venture was made possible through the coming together of Magic Johnson's company and Howard Schultz.

I wish both of them well in their venture and appreciate the hard work they're doing for our city.

## DC College Savings Plan

November is "Higher Education Month," and that means more than just recognizing the importance of continuing education. It means taking a hard look at all aspects of higher education. One important issue is the cost of higher education. College costs can place a severe burden on many families. The cost of one year at a public four-year college rose by 9.6 percent this year, while one year at a private four-year college rose by 5.8 percent.

With the assistance of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, we first began to help families meet this financial challenge by establishing the DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program. Under this program, District of Columbia students attending public colleges and universities anywhere in the United States are eligible to receive grants of up to \$10,000 per year. Students attending private colleges in the DC metropolitan area or historically black colleges nationwide are eligible to receive grants of up to \$2,500 per year.

Last week, we launched another tool to help make educational dreams a reality for District residents—the DC College Savings Plan. A few months ago, at the end of July, we announced that Calvert Distributors was the fund manager for this plan. On November 13, we announced its availability to the public.

With a \$100 minimum contribution, parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends can set up a DC College Savings Plan account for anyone—including him or herself. The plan also offers a low initial contribution minimum of \$15 for payroll deductions through a participating employer or \$25 for automatic contributions through a bank. For District residents, there is no charge to enroll in the DC College Savings Plan and only a \$15 annual maintenance fee. Non-District residents will pay \$25 to enroll and \$30 annually for account maintenance.

Earnings are federal and District tax-free, as long as the money remains in the account. When funds are used to pay for qualified higher education expenses—such as tuition, room and board, books, and supplies at qualified post-secondary institutions—the distributions are currently exempt from federal, District, and some states' income tax.

The DC College Savings Plan will help families save for higher-education expenses by offering them several tax benefits. Opening an account is easy. For information, citizens may call 1 (800) 987-4859, or go to [www.DCCollegeSavings.com](http://www.DCCollegeSavings.com).



## Center for Workforce Development Moves to One Judiciary Square

On Tuesday, November 12, the DC Office of Personnel (DCOP) Center for Workforce Development (CWD) will open its doors in One Judiciary Square, 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 820 North. The new CWD site has eight classrooms, including three computer labs and one executive training room. CWD will also continue to use the training rooms at the Reeves Center and Room 1C in One Judiciary Square, but will no longer have any classroom or office space at the University of the District of Columbia.

The Center for Workforce Development offers District government employees a selection of nearly 100 courses, designed to meet the training and professional development needs of all employees, ranging from front-line workers to senior government executives. During this past fiscal year, more than 7,200 employees attended classes through CWD.

Courses for this fiscal year will begin in mid-November. For a complete course catalog, updated schedule, program descriptions, policies, and forms, District employees may go to the DCOP intranet site at [dcop.in.dc.gov](http://dcop.in.dc.gov), and click on "Training and Development." Non-government employees can view the catalog and brief program descriptions at the DCOP website, [www.dcop.dc.gov](http://www.dcop.dc.gov).

Two other DCOP offices will also move to the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of One Judiciary Square. The Benefits Management and Performance Management units will relocate 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 836 South.

Center for Workforce Development  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 820 North  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: (202) 727-1523

Benefits Management  
Performance Management  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 836 South  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: (202) 727-1742

## Grand Opening - Cady's Alley in Georgetown

In 1998, developer Anthony Lanier purchased property in Georgetown that would become a \$65 million M Street strip that he calls Cady's Alley, named after the tiny cobblestone stretch that runs behind the shops. The goods sold along the alley are as diverse as thousand-year-old marble flooring from the Holy Land, to hip "Euro-style" halogen lamps.

On November 14, I joined other local officials to cut the ribbon on this unique development in our city. Tenants of Cady's Alley include Baker, which manufactures upscale traditional and transitional furnishings; Hollis & Knight, which sells custom rugs and upscale furnishings; Ann Sacks Tile & Stone, seller of the Holy Land marble as well as bathroom fixtures; Waterworks, which sells sinks, tubs, tile, and stone; and Bulthaup, a unique offering of luxury German kitchens.

Cady's Alley has roughly 130,000 square feet of retail, four residential units, and approximately 100 parking spaces still under construction. The cost of the project was about \$65 million over 30 months. I was proud to attend the ribbon-cutting at Cady's Alley, especially since the renovation of the alley is a great example of a public/private sector joint venture.

Several years ago, the District received a federal grant of over \$4.5 million to reconstruct historic alleys throughout the District. A number of alleys, including several in Georgetown, were renovated under this program. Cady's Alley was one of the early and obvious choices because of its unique layout, which provides the only access to a number of historic buildings overlooking the C&O Canal.

Mr. Lanier and his firm, EastBanc, approached the District government about the idea of both renovating and upgrading the alley to turn it into an environment that could support retailers and businesses where none had been before. EastBanc donated Belgian block pavers to be mixed in with standard District materials and paid to provide underground telephone conduit, while the District coordinated the upgrading of the gas, water, and electric lines underneath the alley.

Now, we see the fruits of their efforts, and we look forward to the continued economic revitalization along this historic alley in Georgetown.





## District Activities



Mayor Williams and MPD Chief Ramsey host President George Bush and Homeland Security Advisor Tom Ridge at the Strategic Operations Command Complex on November 12.



Federal and District employees work to prepare old electronic equipment for recycling on America Recycles Day, November 15.



Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Kellems, and MPD Chief Ramsey with recipients of MPD special achievement awards.



Mayor Williams presents a proclamation declaring November 2002 "Higher Education Month" to John Childers, president and CEO of the Consortium of Universities; Pamela Lambert, director of the Education Opportunity Center; and Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity College.

## Community News

- [Mayor Williams Issues Statement on Doctors Community Healthcare](#)
- [Mayor Appoints Adrian Thompson to Head Fire/EMS Department](#)
- [Mayor's Home Again Initiative Gets Underway](#)

## Upcoming Events

[Click here](#) to view news releases.

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| 11/23 | <b>Fannie Mae 15th Annual Help the Homeless 5K Walkathon</b><br>9 am<br>National Mall between 4th and 7th Streets, NW |
| 12/05 | <b>Citywide Energy Expo</b><br>10 am—2 pm<br>Gallaudet - Kellogg Conference Center<br>800 Flordia Avenue, NE          |
| 12/09 | <b>Mayor's Art Awards</b><br>7:30 pm<br>Lincoln Theatre<br>1215 U Street, NW  |

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

